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IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims are set forth below. Cancelled claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (previously presented), (cancelled), (withdrawn), or (new).

Please AMEND the claims in accordance with the following:

1-55. (Cancelled)

56. (Currently Amended) A content push service system for push-distribution of content to subscribers to the service comprising ~~where~~ a plurality of data-content servers, at least one agent unit, and a plurality of user terminals ~~of the subscribers~~, ~~all~~ are connected to a network using an Internet protocol, ~~wherein~~ where each of the data-content servers is configured to store information respective content and to push-transmit update information related to updating of ~~the information its content~~ to the at least one agent serving as a substitute for the user terminals connected via the network, the push-transmit being responsive to the information content having been updated in the data-content server, the system comprising:

the at least one agent unit, which is configured to receive the update information and to transmit via the network the update information to one or more of the user terminals if the update information relates to information content that has been registered in the at least one agent unit as being requested by the users of the one or more of the user terminals; and where

the one or more of the user terminals are configured to receive the update information transmitted from the at least one agent unit and to obtain the information content updated.

57. (Currently Amended) The content push service system according to claim 56, wherein the one or more of the user terminals are configured to access via the network the data-content server which has transmitted the update information so as to obtain the information content updated.

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58. (Currently Amended) The content push service system according to claim 56, wherein the at least one agent comprises a plurality of subagents in a subnetwork connected to the network, and the user terminals register themselves into the subagents, and each of the subagents serves as a substitute of corresponding user terminals of the user terminals, the corresponding user terminals that have registered themselves into the each of the plurality of subagents.

59. (Currently Amended) The content push service system according to claim 58, wherein a representative agent is provided between the network and the subnetwork, and the representative agent relays between the data-content servers and at least one of the subagents and between the user terminals and at least one of the subagents.

60. (Currently Amended) The content push service system according to claim 56, wherein

the at least one agent is locally connected to at least one provider connected to the network,

the user terminals are connected to the at least one provider, and
the data-content servers transmit the update information or the information-content updated to the at least one agent via the at least one provider, and the at least one agent transmits at least one of the update information and the information-content updated to the user terminals via the at least one provider.

61. (Currently Amended) The content push service system according to claim 60, wherein

the at least one provider comprises a plurality of providers having a hierarchical relationship among each other, and each including the at least one agent,

the user terminals and a lower agent of the agents that is directly connected to a lower provider in a hierarchy lower than a hierarchy of an upper provider of the providers register information about the user terminals and about which information is requested into an upper agent connected directly to the upper provider, and

the upper agent transmits, to the lower agent connected to lower user terminals of the user terminals, the lower user terminals that have requested at least one of the update

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information and the information-content updated, the update information updated transmitted from the data-content servers.

62. (Currently Amended) The content push service system according to claim 56, wherein the at least one agent transmits via another network different from the network at least one of the update information and the information-content updated, to the user terminals registered.

63. (Currently Amended) The content push service system according to claim 56, wherein

the at least one agent has a table listing data-content servers that provide information-content, and

when the at least one agent is notified by a data-content server not registered in the table that the information-content is going to be provided from the data-content server the at least one agent registers the data-content server into the table.

64. (Currently Amended) The content push service system according to claim 56, wherein

the at least one agent further has data-content type management information for managing the information per data-content type, and

when the at least one agent receives a notification made by one of the data-content servers about what kind of management is carried out on the information-content managed by the one of the data-content servers, the at least one agent adds or deletes the one of the data-content servers from the data-content type management information based on the notification.

65. (Currently Amended) The content push service system according to claim 64, wherein when the at least one agent receives a notification made by one of the data-content servers about addition or deletion of information-content of a data-content type of the information-content managed by the one of the data-content servers, the at least one agent adds or deletes the data-content server/servers related to the data-content type to or from the data-content type management information.

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66. (Currently Amended) The content push service system according to claim 64, wherein when the information of the data-content type of the information managed by the at least one agent is changed the at least one agent notifies the user terminals of the change.

67. (Currently Amended) The content push service system according to claim 66, wherein

the at least one agent manages the data-content types such that the data-content types have a hierarchical relationship among each other, and

when information of one of the data-content types is changed the at least one agent notifies of the change to a user terminal of the user terminals which has been registered to receive a lower data-content type having a hierarchy lower than a hierarchy of the one of the data-content types changed.

68. (Currently Amended) The content push service system according to claim 56, wherein

the at least one agent accesses via the network the data-content server which has transmitted the update information so as to obtain the information-content updated and transmits via the network the information-content updated to the one or more of the user terminals, and

the user terminals are configured to receive the information-content updated from the at least one agents so as to obtain the content-information updated.

69. (Currently Amended) The content push service system according to claim 56, wherein

each of the data-content servers transmits the content-information updated instead of the update information to the at least one agent,

the at least one agent receives the information-content transmitted by the data-content servers, and if the content-information received has been registered in the at least one agent as requested content-information requested by one or more of the user terminals, transmits the content-information received to the one or more of the user terminals via the network, and

the one or more of the user terminals receive the information-content transmitted by the at least one agent so as to obtain the information-content updated.

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70. (Currently Amended) A content push service processing method for use with push-distribution of content to subscribers to the content push service, comprising:

registering information about a user terminal of a subscriber connected to a network using an Internet protocol and information-content requested by the user terminal into an agent which is connected to the network and serves as a substitute for the user terminal;

push-transmitting, from a data-content server which is connected to the network and stores contentinformation, update information related to updating of the data-content server's information-content responsive to detection of the information-content having been updated in the data-content server, to the agent via the network;

transmitting from the agent the update information to the user terminal via the network if the update information has been requested as indicated by the registering of information about the user terminal; and

receiving at the user terminal the update information transmitted from the agent and obtaining at the user terminal the information-content updated via the network.

71. (Currently Amended) The push service processing method according to claim 70, wherein the user terminal accesses the data-content server via the network so as to obtain the contentinformation updated.

72. (Currently Amended) The push service processing method according to claim 70, wherein the agent transmits via another network different from the network at least one of the update information and the contentinformation updated, to the user terminal registered.

73. (Currently Amended) The push service processing method according to claim 70, wherein

the agent has a table listing data-content servers that provide information-content, and when the agent is notified by a data-content server not registered in the table that the information-content is going to be provided from the data-content server the agent registers the data-content server into the table.

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74. (Currently Amended) The push service processing method according to claim 70, wherein

the agent further has data-content type management information for managing the information-content per data-content type, and

when the agent receives a notification made by the data-content server about what kind of management is carried out on the information-content managed by the data-content server, the agent adds or deletes the data-content server from the data-content type management information based on the notification.

75. (Currently Amended) The push service processing method according to claim 70, wherein when the agent receives a notification made by the data-content server about addition or deletion of information-content of a data-content type of the information managed by the data-content server, the agent adds or deletes the data-content server or data-content servers related to the data-content type to or from the data-content type management information.

76. (Currently Amended) The push service processing method according to claim 70, wherein when the information-content of the data-content type of the information managed by the agent is changed the agent notifies the user terminal of the change.

77. (Currently Amended) The push service processing method according to claim 76, wherein

the agent manages the data-content types such that the data-content types have a hierarchical relationship among each other, and

when information-content of one of the data-content types is changed the agent notifies of the change to the user terminal which has been registered to receive a lower data-content type having a hierarchy lower than a hierarchy of the one of the data-content types changed.

78. (Currently Amended) The push service processing method according to claim 70, wherein the agent accesses the data-content server via the network so as to obtain the information-content updated, and the user terminal receives from the agent the update information and the information-content updated.

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79. (Currently Amended) The push service processing method according to claim 70, comprising:

transmitting from the data-content server the contentinformation updated instead of the update information to the agent;

receiving at the agent the information-content transmitted by the data-content server, and if the information-content received has been registered in the agent as requested information requested by the user terminal, transmitting from the agent the information-content received to the user terminal via the network, and

receiving at the user terminal the information-content transmitted by the agent so as to obtain the information-content updated.

80. (Previously Presented) A network-based push processing intermediary agent in a volatile or nonvolatile storage, the intermediary agent configured to perform a process, the process comprising:

receiving over the network at the intermediary agent registrations from clients, the registrations indicating different types of information of interest to different clients, whereby a client registers with the intermediary agent its respective information type;

at the intermediary agent, receiving update notices pushed over the network from the information servers, where the update notices are pushed from the information servers responsive to such servers having detected that their served information has been updated, and where the update notices indicate respective types of information updated at the information servers;

receiving the update notices at the intermediary agent and using the update notices and the prior registrations to determine which clients are to be notified of which information server updates; and

at the intermediary agent, notifying the determined clients of the relevant updates at the information servers, whereby update detection on the information servers causes clients to be notified of updates without requiring the clients to first send information requests to the information servers.